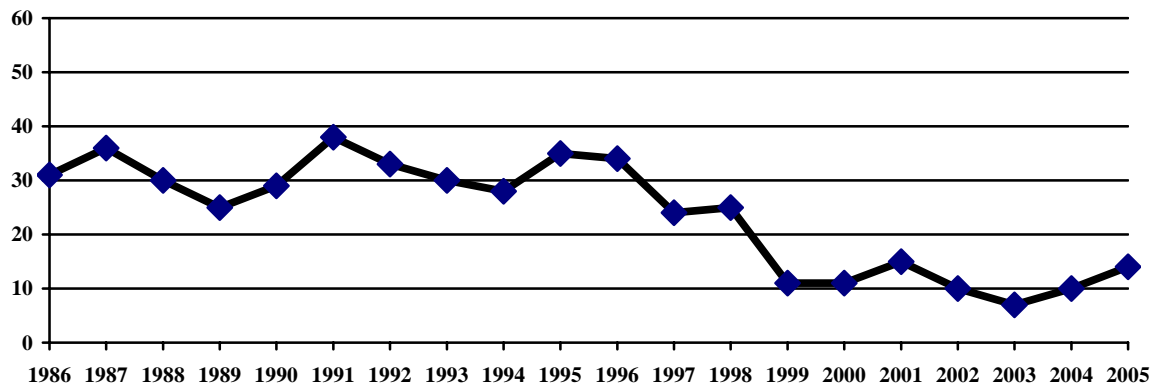


RAPE

, as defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force, and assaults with the intent to commit rape, are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

**Twenty Year Review:
Rape in Cambridge, 1986-2005**



10 reported in 2004 • 14 reported in 2005

The Cambridge Police Department's Sexual Assault Unit reports that 4 attempted rapes and 10 completed rapes were reported in 2005. This is an increase of 4

incidents over 2004. Two of the rapes were committed by the same individual who had been operating a taxi cab. This individual picked up his female victims in Boston and took them to an area near the Alewife T station and raped them. This individual was later arrested and connected to these crimes with DNA evidence. He is currently awaiting trial. Note that the number of rapes that go unreported each year is uncertain. Experts estimate as many as 50% of domestic and acquaintance rapes are not reported by the victim.

	Acquaintance.	Contact	Blitz	Domestic	Total
Completed	6	3	0	1	10
Attempt	3	0	1	0	4
Total	9	3	1	1	14

CATEGORIES OF RAPE

- **Acquaintance Rapes** are non-domestic rapes committed by someone who knows the victim. They include rapes of co-workers, schoolmates, friends, and other acquaintances, including "date rapes." Nine of the 14 incidents in 2005 were perpetrated by acquaintances.
- **Blitz Rapes** are rapes in which the suspect "comes out of nowhere." Usually, the attacker is a stranger but this is not necessarily the case. Among all of the categorizations of rape, the blitz rape, or "street rape," tends to provoke the most fear in the average citizen. In mid-August, a victim reported that an unknown person grabbed her and tried to rape her in an alley. This woman was able to fight off her attacker, and he was arrested a short time later.
- **Contact Rapes** are **stranger** rapes in which the suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain his/her confidence before assaulting him/her. Contact rapists typically pick up their victims in bars, lure them

into their cars or houses, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a situation in which they can begin their assault. These rapes include the taxi driver incidents described previously.

- ***Domestic Rapes*** involve rapes between spouses, romantic partners, and family members. One domestic rape was reported in 2005 and was committed by the victim's ex-husband.

2004* NATIONAL AND REGIONAL RAPE STATISTICS

The FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2004 reports that:

- Cities with a population between 50,000 and 99,999 residents reported a rate of **35 rapes per 100,000 persons**.
- Cities with a population of 100,000 to 249,999 reported a rate of **40 rapes per 100,000 persons**.

With a population of approximately 101,896, Cambridge's rate (approx. 14 per 100,000 persons) falls far below that of cities of comparable size.

In 2004, the FBI reported an increase of 0.8% in the number of *incidents* of female forcible rape known to the police nationwide. Between 1994 and 2003, the incidence of rape decreased 8.6%. Like the Cambridge Police Department, the FBI cautions that a significant portion of rapes go unrecorded, making the validity of the statistics uncertain.

Locally, cities with populations comparable to Cambridge reported averages notably above Cambridge's total. Examples of these cities include Brockton (55 per 100,000 population), Fall River (88 per 100,000 population), Lowell (42 per 100,000 population), Lynn (18 per 100,000 population), and Quincy (19 per 100,000 population).

**National and regional statistics for 2005 are not yet available.*

Please see the Protect Yourself section starting on page 137 for tips on how you can protect yourself against becoming a victim of rape, and how to handle the situation if you do find yourself in dangerous circumstances.